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From the President: Beginnings and Endings

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Beginnings and Endings

May is an odd month. It's a month of both beginnings and endings. In some parts of the country May is the beginning of spring, with flowers and trees coming into bloom. For those of us in the South, May is the end of spring with many flowers already fading and the days growing steadily warmer. In academia, it's a month of endings—the end of the semester, the end of the school year, and, for many of our students, the end of their academic career but the beginning of bar review. For our colleagues in the private sector, May is a beginning as they prepare for summer associates.

For AALL May is also a month of beginnings and endings. A fun factoid—did you know that AALL has three separate years? Our membership year begins in June, our Association year begins at the end of the Annual Meeting, and our fiscal year begins in October. So this month AALL staff will be updating membership rolls, sending out dues reminders, and welcoming new members. I find it very gratifying that, even in these difficult economic times, AALL's membership renewal rate hovers around 95 percent. It's great to know that our members still find value in our Association and make membership a priority in their budgets.

May is the beginning of the end for leadership roles for some AALL members. They will begin the process of wrapping up committee work, filing annual reports, and gearing up for a change in leadership. Emails will go out, and boxes will fly around the country as one year's leaders prepare to turn over the reins to their successors. We write action plans and develop training materials to ensure that we accomplish the goals we set for ourselves.

May is a time of both reflection and anticipation. We reflect on what happened, what we have accomplished, and what still needs to be done. We celebrate what went right; we analyze what went wrong and how to correct our mistakes. We anticipate what comes next, be it a new class of summer associates, a new committee assignment, or a new leadership role.

One thing we are all, I hope, looking forward to with anticipation is the Annual Meeting. Since last August, members have been developing programs, suggesting speakers, and working to ensure that all members have a successful Meeting. I personally am looking forward to the changes that have been made in the Annual Meeting schedule—changes suggested by you, our members.



This year, in order to avoid some conflicts with SIS and chapter meetings, all AALL committees will meet on Saturday afternoon. The Diversity Symposium has been moved from Saturday to Sunday afternoon, in order to give it more prominence. The

Opening Event has been moved to earlier on Saturday and will be moved to the Exhibit Hall. We are killing two birds with one stone here—giving members more time to browse the exhibits and more time for dinners with their colleagues. The final change is the elimination of the Closing Banquet. The Gallagher and Andrews Awards, which were given out in this venue, will now be awarded at the Business Meeting. The “official” closing of the Meeting and the handing over of the gavel to the new president, Darcy Kirk, will take place on Tuesday afternoon in the Exhibit Hall.

So no matter how you view May, as a beginning, an ending, or even as no more than the middle of your year, I look forward with anticipation to seeing you at the Annual Meeting in a few short weeks. ■

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announcements

Renew Your AALL Membership for a Chance to Win an AALL Webinar Registration

The new AALL membership year begins next month on June 1. We hope that you're planning to renew your membership, which both strengthens the profession and provides you with essential career resources, such as networking, continuing education, and advocacy.

This month a second set of dues invoices for 2011-2012 will mail out to all library directors for their institutionally paid memberships and to all other individual members. The deadline for membership renewal is May 31.

This year, when you renew on time—by May 31—you'll be entered in a drawing for a free AALL webinar of your choice in 2011-2012.

Following is the 2011 membership renewal schedule:

May: Second dues invoices mailed out.

June: Final dues invoices mailed out.

July: Expiration notices emailed to all members—individuals and those paid by institutions.

August 1: Expired members deleted from the AALL membership database and access to the AALLNET Members Only content and *Law Library Journal* and *AALL Spectrum* subscriptions discontinued.

For more information or to renew your membership online, view the application form on AALLNET at www.aallnet.org/about/join.asp. If you have any questions about your membership renewal, contact AALL Headquarters at membership@aall.org or 312/205-8022.